

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00855 202221Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /073 W
-----018412 202223Z /44

R 202006Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9439
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0855

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT BF
SUBJ: ELECTIONS - 117 CANDIDATES VIE FOR 39 SEATS

REF: NASSAU 0823

1. 117 CANDIDATES INCLUDING 37 FROM THE RULING PLP, 34 FNM, 30 BDP, FOUR VANGUARD SOCIALISTS, SIX FORMER PLP'S RUNNING AS INDEPENDENTS, AND ANOTHER SIX INDIVIDUALS DOING LIKEWISE WERE OFFICIALLY NOMINATED JUNE 17 TO CONTEST THE JULY 19 ELECTION FOR 38 HOUSE ASSEMBLY SEATS. NO REAL SURPRISES OCCURRED ALTHOUGH OF THE SIX FORMER PLP INDEPENDENTS - ONE EARL THOMPSON, HAD BEEN CLEARED ONLY THREE DAYS BEFORE BY THE COURTS ON CHARGES OF CORRUPTION WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DROPPED PROSECUTION AND ANOTHER, CADWELL ARMBRISTER, IS STILL UNDER A CLOUD FOLLOWING HIS UNEXPLAINED "RESIGNATION" FROM THE STATE CONTROLLED RADIO LAST FALL.

2. GIVEN THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES AND PARTIES REPRESENTED,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00855 202221Z

THIS YEAR'S ELECTION WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CALL ACCURATELY IN ADVANCE ESPECIALLY SO AS SOME CONSTITUENCIES IN THE PAST WITH ONLY TWO CANDIDATES RUNNING HAVE BEEN WON OR LOST BY AS FEW AS A DOZEN VOTES. THIS YEAR THERE ARE TWENTY CONSTITUENCIES BEING CONTESTED BY THREE CANDIDATES AND ON THE ISLAND OF NEW PROVIDENCE (NASSAU) THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT CONSTITUENCIES BEING

CONTESTED BY FOUR CANDIDATES, WHICH CONSIDERABLY COMPLICATED THE TASK FOR WOULD BE LOCAL ORACLES OURSELVES INCLUDED.

3. FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S PLP DEBACLE, THERE HAS BEEN NO CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY OF NOTE. THE PLP HIERACHY HAS GONE INTO WHAT APPEARS TO BE ROUND THE CLOCK CONSULTATIONS WITH THE RESULT THAT ALL BUT THE MOST ROUTINE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS HAS STOPPED GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF DECISION MAKERS OR THEIR PRESENT UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE DECISION IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IS NO EXCEPTION MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION WHICH HAS SEVERAL URGENT MATTERS PENDING AND OURSELVES WHO EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY THIS WEEKEND WITH WHAT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN A ROUTINE REQUEST FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION. BOTH THE FNM AND THE BDP ARE KEEPING A STRANGELY LOW PROFILE AND IN THE CASE OF THE FORMER, AT LEAST, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY MINISCULE ACTIVITY TWO FLOORS ABOVE.

4. AS PREDICTED, THE BAHAMIAN CHRISTIAN COUNCIL HAS CALLED FOR A NON-VIOLENT CAMPAIGN AND THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED ZNS HAS COME UNDER HEAVY CRITICISM FROM BOTH THE TRIBUNE AND THE GUARDIAN FOR THEIR BIASED REPORTING OF PINDLING'S HOMECOMING WHICH THEY CHOSE TO SEE THROUGH ROSE COLORED GLASSES. NO PARTY HAS SERIOUSLY SPOKEN OUT ON THE NATION'S NUMBER ONE PROBLEM - UNEMPLOYMENT AND PARTICULARLY YOUTH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 00855 202221Z

UNEMPLOYMENT - AND IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL FOR THE ANSWERS ARE FEW AND HARD TO COME BY. WITH ONLY TWENTH-FIVE DAYS UNTIL THE POLLS OPEN IT APPEARS THUS FAR THAT THE POLITICAL LEADERS WILL CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE TRIVIAL AND DWELL FAR MORE ON THE PAST THAN THE FUTURE. AS A RESULT THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THIS YEER'S ELECTION, MORE THAN THAT OF 1972, WILL FOCUS MORE ON THE PERSONALITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES RATHER THAN PARTY PHILOSOPJY, PROMISES OR ALLEGED ATTAINMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, THE VERY REAL ISSUE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS APPARENTLY NOT BEING FORGOTTEN BY THE VOTER AND A SURPRISINGLY (FOR THE BAHAMAS) VOCAL SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION SEEMS LESS AND LESS RETISCENT TO PROCLAIM OPENLY THAT AFTER 10 YEARS OF PLP RULE, IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR A CHANGE.

TAYLOR

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NASSAU00855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770220-0217
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770640/aaaabipg.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aa7ae779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NASSAU 823
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2096476
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS - 117 CANDIDATES VIE FOR 39 SEATS
TAGS: PINT, BF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aa7ae779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009